Unsatisfactory Speed Post Service

3260. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed post services rendered by the Department of Posts are indulging unfair trade practices and not delivering the articles within the stipulated period;

(b) whether an internal enquiry conducted by MRTPC has revealed that the services rendered by speed posts are not satisfactory; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps Government propose to take to tone up the functioning of speed posts throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The facts of the case are that two speed post articles No. 3882 and 3883 booked on 8.10.94 from Haus Khas Post Office and destinated for Siliguri and Gangtok were not delivered within delivery norms. The speed past charges of Rs. 31/- and Rs. 56/- for these two articles were refunded to the sender due to late delivery. The sender also informed the Monopolies and Restricitive Trade Practices Commission that she did not wish to pursue the matter having received the refund of speed post charges. The Commission, however, investigated the matter and directed that Department of Posts should not indulge in unfair trade practice by not making the customer aware of terms and conditions of acceptance of letters/articles and by not delivering them within stipulated time. The Department of Posts has already taken the following steps to tone up the functioning of speed post services.

(a) Delivery through dedicated staff, (b) Mechanisation of delivery, (c) Free pick-up service from the customer's premises, (d) computerisation of booking and delivery, (e) Introduction of Track & Trace system, (f) Monitoring of quality.

Transfer of control of Hindustan Cables Limited

3261. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a suggestion from Ministry of Industry to transfer the control of Hindustan Cables Limited to Ministry of Communications;

(b) whether the same is still under the consideration of Ministry of communcations;

(c) if so, latest status of the suggested transfer of control; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a proposal from the Department of Heavy Industry in their Cabinet note to transfer the control of Hindustan Cables Ltd. to Ministry of Communcations.

(b) The proposal had not been agreed by Ministry of Communications. The proposal had also not been approved by the Cabinet in its meeting on 27/1/1999. However, as per Cabinet decision, the policy of reservation to HCL is to be reviewed after two years ending 2000-2001.

(c) Regarding transfer of control, the proposal, if any from Department of Heavy Industry (DHI), will be considered by Ministry of Communications.

(d) Not applicable in view of Para (c) above.

Recognition of Jankinath Bhavan as National Monument

3262. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTUTRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the Jankinath Bhavan (Cuttack) where Netaji Subhaschandra Bose was born in 1897 is in need of repairs;

(b) whether Government consider it necessary to recognise the building as a National Monument, in view of the eminence of Netaji as a National Leader; and

(c) if so, what measures Government contemplate to expedite the process of its recognition as a National Monument?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTUTRE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Public Works Department (R & B) Government of Orissa looks after the maintenance and carries out repairs as and when required.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The building has already declared as a memorial by the Government of Orissa. The National Committee for celebration of the